

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the consideration shown by the Office as evidenced by the Office Action mailed on 19 November 2003. In that Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 15 and 18 on informalities and rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, and 18-19. The Examiner also allowed claims 3-4, 7-8, and 12-17. In this Response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 12, 15, and 18. Claims 1-8 and 11-19 remain pending in this application. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

1. Informalities

Applicants have amended claims 1, 15, and 18 to include the correct spelling of the term "scintillator" in response to the Examiner's objections on informalities.

2. Claim Rejections—35 USC §102

Claims 1, 2, 5, 11, and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Weisfield, U. S. Patent No. 6,348,693. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Weisfield describes a radiation imaging system comprising a scintillator (500, col. 3, lines 1-8), an imaging array (200), and a lamination layer (400) comprising benzocyclobutene (col. 3, lines 37-41).

Benzocyclobutene is the only lamination material discussed in this applied reference. In stark contrast, amended independent claims 1 and 18 of the present application recite lamination material as one of plasticized polyetherimide thermoplastic polymers, thermoset polymer epoxies with latent heat catalysts, thermoplastic polyester polymers, and thermoplastic acrylic polymers. None of these materials are taught, suggested, or disclosed in Weisfield. Applicants respectfully submit that these independent claims and their respective dependent claims are therefore patentably distinct from Weisfield.

3. Claim Rejections—35 USC §103

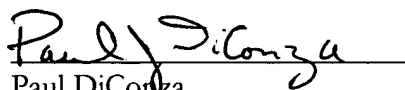
Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weisfield in view of Kingsley (US 5,179,284). As claim 6 depends from claim 1, which is believed to be allowable for the reasons described above, Applicants respectfully submit that this claim is allowable because it depends from an allowable independent claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that this serves as a complete response to the subject Office Action. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul DiConza

Reg. No. 48,418

General Electric Company

Building K1, Room 3A60

Telephone: (518) 387-6131

Schenectady, New York

Wednesday, February 18, 2004